

Please amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims is provided in the Attachment.

38: (Amended Thrice) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound comprising:

- (a) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;
- (b) a seal operably connected with the cover for sealing said cover to tissue surrounding the wound;
- EI (c) support means separate from said cover configured for holding said cover out of contact with the wound without said support means contacting the wound; and
- (d) reduced pressure supply means operably connected with the cover for connection to a source of suction, said reduced pressure supply means cooperating with said cover to supply and maintain said reduced pressure beneath the cover.

43: (Amended Twice) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound comprising:

- (a) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;
- 72 (b) a seal operably connected with the cover for sealing said cover to tissue surrounding the wound, the seal including a cuff around the periphery of said cover for preventing said cover from digging into the skin during the treatment;
- (c) support means separate from said cover for holding said cover out of contact with the wound; and

EB (d) reduced pressure supply means operably connected with the cover for connection to a source of suction, said reduced pressure supply means cooperating with said cover to supply and maintain said reduced pressure beneath the cover.

48. (Amended Once) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound comprising:

(a) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound, the cover comprising a flexible sheet;

(b) a seal operably connected with the cover for sealing said cover to tissue surrounding the wound;

EB (c) support means separate from said cover for holding said cover out of contact with the wound, wherein the support means connects with said sheet for supporting said sheet outward from the wound and wherein the support means comprises a support member located between said sheet and the wound, the support member including a porous cup member having a connection port for connecting with said reduced pressure supply means; and

(d) reduced pressure supply means operably connected with the cover for connection to a source of suction, said reduced pressure supply means cooperating with said cover to supply and maintain said reduced pressure beneath the cover.

49. (Amended Once) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound comprising:

(a) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound, the cover comprising a flexible sheet;

(b) a seal operably connected with the cover for sealing said cover to tissue surrounding the wound;

(c) support means separate from said cover for holding said cover out of contact with the wound, wherein the support means connects with said sheet for supporting said sheet outward from the wound and wherein the support means comprises a support member located between said sheet and the wound;

(d) reduced pressure supply means operably connected with the cover for connection to a source of suction, said reduced pressure supply means cooperating with said cover to supply and maintain said reduced pressure beneath the cover; and

(e) a pad between the wound and said support member for alleviating discomfort caused in the wound by said support member.

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50. (Amended Once) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound comprising:

E3 (a) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound, the cover comprising a flexible sheet;

(b) a seal operably connected with the cover for sealing said cover to tissue surrounding the wound;

(c) support means separate from said cover for holding said cover out of contact with the wound, wherein the support means connects with said sheet for supporting said sheet outward from the wound and wherein the support means comprises a support member extending outwardly over the wound and external to said sheet; and

(d) reduced pressure supply means operably connected with the cover for connection to a source of suction, said reduced pressure supply means cooperating with said cover to supply and maintain said reduced pressure beneath the cover.

56. (Amended Once) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound comprising:

E4 (a) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound, the cover comprising a flexible sheet;

(b) a seal operably connected with the cover for sealing said cover to tissue surrounding the wound;

(c) support means separate from said cover for holding said cover out of contact with the wound, wherein

the support means connects with said sheet for supporting said sheet outward from the wound, the support means comprises a support member located between said sheet and

the wound, and the support means includes a convex shield and wherein the flexible sheet overlies and extends beyond the shield at the periphery of the sheet; and

EC (d) reduced pressure supply means operably connected with the cover for connection to a source of suction, said reduced pressure supply means cooperating with said cover to supply and maintain said reduced pressure beneath the cover.

ES 60. (Amended Thrice) An apparatus for treating a wound comprising:

- (a) a vacuum system for producing a reduced pressure; and
 - (b) a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with said vacuum system for applying said reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance including:
 - (i) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;
 - (ii) support means separate from said cover configured for holding said cover out of contact with the wound without said support means contacting the wound;
 - (iii) a seal operably connected with the cover for sealing said cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and
 - (iv) reduced pressure supply means operably connected with the cover for connection with the vacuum system for supplying and maintaining said reduced pressure to the wound.
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ES 62. (Amended Once) An apparatus for treating a wound comprising:

- (a) a vacuum system for producing a reduced pressure, the vacuum system including a collection device for collecting fluid aspirated from the wound, the collection device including means for halting said application of reduced pressure to the wound when said fluid exceeds a predetermined quantity;
- (b) a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with said vacuum system for applying said reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance including:
 - (i) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

(ii) support means separate from said cover for holding said cover out of contact with the wound;

(iii) a seal operably connected with the cover for sealing said cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and

E6 (iv) reduced pressure supply means operably connected with the cover for connection with the vacuum system for supplying and maintaining said reduced pressure to the wound.

~~67~~ (Amended Once) An apparatus for treating a wound comprising:

(a) a vacuum system for producing a reduced pressure comprising

(i) a vacuum pump connected with said tubing; and

(ii) a filter for preventing said pump from venting micro-organisms aspirated from the wound; and

E7 (b) a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with said vacuum system for applying said reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance including:

(i) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

(ii) support means separate from said cover for holding said cover out of contact with the wound;

(iii) a seal operably connected with the cover for sealing said cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and

(iv) reduced pressure supply means operably connected with the cover for connection with the vacuum system for supplying and maintaining said reduced pressure to the wound, the reduced pressure supply means comprising a length of tubing connected between said vacuum system and said cover.

~~69~~ (Amended Once) An apparatus for treating a wound comprising:

E8 (a) a vacuum system for producing a reduced pressure comprising control means for cyclically controlling said production of reduced pressure in alternating periods of production and non-production of reduced pressure; and

(b) a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with said vacuum system for applying said reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance including:

(i) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

(ii) support means separate from said cover for holding said cover out of contact with the wound;

E8 (iii) a seal operably connected with the cover for sealing said cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and

(iv) reduced pressure supply means operably connected with the cover for connection with the vacuum system for supplying and maintaining said reduced pressure to the wound.

72 (Amended Twice) A method of treating a wound comprising the steps of:

(a) applying a reduced pressure to the wound, wherein said applying step comprises steps of:

(i) locating an impermeable cover over the wound, said cover having a suction port;

E9 (ii) providing a separate support to support said cover out of contact with the wound without said support means contacting the wound;

(iii) sealing the periphery of said impermeable cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and

(iv) operably connecting said suction port with a vacuum system for producing said reduced pressure; and

(b) maintaining said reduced pressure until the wound has progressed toward a selected stage of healing.

76 (Amended Once) A method of treating a wound comprising the steps of:

E10 (a) applying a reduced pressure to the wound, wherein said applying step comprises steps of: